

For Immediate Release

Tuesday, December 09, 2003

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San José Selected to Host International Symposium on Electronic Art

Thousands to explore the intersections of art, science and technology

San José – San José has been chosen to host a biannual international symposium that will feature a global gathering of leaders in the art, science and technology communities in August 2006 to explore cutting edge developments in creative expression using new and emerging tools.

The *International Symposium on Electronic Art*, sponsored by the Netherlands-based Inter-Society for Electronic Art (ISEA), fosters interdisciplinary exchange among culturally diverse organizations and individuals working with art, science and emerging technologies. The 2006 conference theme is “Silicon Transvergence,” and will focus on projects that bridge the boundaries between the arts, education, technology and business communities. The public events will feature conferences, exhibitions, live performances, screenings, satellite events, concerts and clubs.

“This conference is ideally suited to San José because we are an established global center of technology innovation and entrepreneurial enterprise,” said Mayor Ron Gonzales. “Both our city’s history of discovery and our civic vision for the creative union of technology, art, culture, and community will make this conference highly successful.”

San José was one of five finalist cities competing to host the ISEA Symposium, which is held in a different city every two years. In 2004, the event will be held jointly in Stockholm, Tallinn, and Helsinki. Prior host cities include Nagoya, Paris, Liverpool-Manchester, Chicago, Rotterdam, Montréal, and Sydney. Approximately 1,500 artists, researchers, engineers, students and community members attended the 2002 ISEA Symposium in Japan, which featured over 200 presentations of papers and art works from 30 countries.

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“San José is clearly known throughout the world as a technology hub,” said Dan Fenton, President and CEO of the San José Convention and Visitors Bureau. “ISEA’s decision to hold its 2006 Symposium in San José creates international recognition for our vibrant arts community and our commitment to innovation.”

Seven civic, cultural and education organizations collaborated to submit the winning proposal to host the Symposium, led by the San José Convention and Visitors Bureau and including the City of San José; San José State University CADRE Institute; San Jose Museum of Art; ZeroOne: *The Art and Technology Network*; the Tech Museum of Innovation; and Cultural Initiatives Silicon Valley.

Internationally renowned new media curator Steve Dietz will serve as the 2006 Symposium Director, responsible for coordinating and establishing the programming of the Symposium and related events. Dietz is former Curator of New Media at the Walker Art Center in Minneapolis, where he founded the New Media Initiatives department in 1996.

ZeroOne, a local non-profit that focuses on creating new opportunities to explore the connections between art and technology, will be the lead organization coordinating the 2006 Symposium logistics. ZeroOne also will work with the partnering organizations to create an art and technology festival for the broader public in conjunction with the Symposium.

"This kind of festival has been our goal for years," said Beau Takahara, Director and CEO of ZeroOne. "We will be working with the City, our regional arts organizations and the private sector to create a San José-based ISEA event of the highest caliber that will show off our community and our capabilities to the world.

“This Symposium will help us channel the innovation, technology, and resources centered in Silicon Valley that will foster a new generation of artists, expand the cultural horizons of our community, and build cultural and social capital.”

The Symposium includes workshops, performances, artists in residence, and events that are open to the public. Many events will also integrate television, radio, broadband Internet, and mobile networks to make them available to the widest possible international audience.

“This is a terrific win for San José and for the region that will build on our fundamental strengths of creativity and invention,” added Dan Keegan, Oshman Executive Director of the San Jose Museum of Art. “Landing the ISEA conference is testimony to our combined efforts that have established San José as an international economic and cultural center.”

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